

STAR TREK



CONWAY/KULPA



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JIM, WHAT'S **WRONG?**
YOU' LOOK LIKE
YOU'VE BEEN
KICKED BY A
COUNTRY
MULE!

I
HAVE,
BONES.

GERRY
CONNY
DICK
KULPA

8/17

YARAMOTO JUST
KICKED ME OFF THE
ENTERPRISE... AND
IN RETURN, I QUIT.

YOU QUIT
STARFLEET?
BUT THE
FLEET'S
YOUR
LIFE,
JIM!

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**WRONG, DR.
MCCOY...** THAT'S
MY LIFE, UP
THERE,
SPACE.

**THE
FINAL
FRONTIER.**

STARPORT
Cocktails Dancing

I'VE NEVER
SEEN JIM SO
INTENSE, SO
DETERMINED...
AND THAT'S
SAVING A GREAT
DEAL!

LOSING THE
ENTERPRISE
PERMANENTLY
--MUST HAVE
AFFECTED
HIM **VERY**
DEEPLY!

THE WAY
HE'S
ACTING--
WORRIES
ME!

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BARTENDER
--DRINKS FOR
ME AND MY
FRIEND. **RIGELIAN
KRYSS**--THE
BEST YOU'VE
GOT.

FRIEND
KIRK, I'M
NOT LETTING
YOU OUT OF
MY SIGHT.

GERRY
CONNY
DICK
KULPA

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SO WHAT NOW, MCCOY? I'M A CAPTAIN WITHOUT A SHIP... ABOUT AS MUCH USE ON LAND AS A REFEREE AT A LOVER'S QUARREL...

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PLEASE IF THIS ONE COULD MAKE AMIABLE SUGGESTION?

HONORABLE PERSONAGE REQUIRES SHIP... AND THIS ONE REQUIRES CAPTAIN.

PLEASE... PERHAPS DEAL?

GERRY COMNEY
and
DICK KULPA

YOUR COMMENTS REGARDING ADMIRAL KIRK HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AND UNDERSTOOD, ADMIRAL YAMAMOTO.

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THE ENTERPRISE WILL REMAIN IN DRY DOCK, AWAITING STARFLEET ORDERS.

SPOCK OUT.

ADMIRAL KIRK -- BEACHED? MR. SPOCK... IT'S UNTHINKABLE!

FASCINATING.

PLEASE TO KINDLY
LOOK, HONORABLE
KIRK-- OUR
STARCRAFT,
THE INDEPEND-
ENT TRADER-
SHIP "ORION."

GOOD
HEAVENS,
JIM-- IT'S A
WRECK!

GERRY
CONNY
and
DICK
KULPA

YOU CAN'T
SERIOUSLY
INTEND TO
CAPTAIN
THAT
JUNKHEAP.

STARFLEET
HASN'T MADE
ME A BETTER
OFFER, BONES
...AND I MUST
HAVE A SHIP.

FRIEND, YOU'VE
HIRED YOURSELF
A CAPTAIN.

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YOU'RE NOT
ACTING RATIONAL,
JIM. JUST BECAUSE
STARFLEET
BEACHES YOU--
THAT'S NO
REASON TO QUIT--

MAYBE
YOU'RE
RIGHT,
BONES.

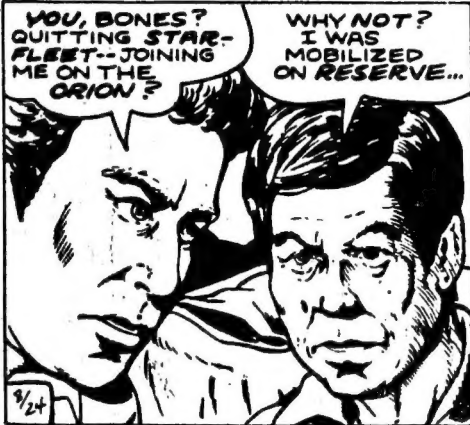
MAYBE I'M NOT
DOING THE
RIGHT THING-- RESIGNING
MY COMMISSION,
AND SIGNING A-
BOARD AS CAP-
TAIN OF A FREE
TRADER...

... BUT I'M
DOING THE
ONLY THING
I CAN.

IN THAT
CASE-- I'M
GOING WITH
YOU!

GERRY
CONNY
and
DICK
KULPA

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"INTERESTING?" CAPTAIN, THIS IS ADMIRAL KIRK. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT NOT SOME FAULTY COMPUTER BANK.

I AM AWARE OF THE DISTINCTION, MR. SCOTT.

HOWEVER, JAMES KIRK IS A COMPETENT ADULT, AND HIS ACTIONS ARE NOT FOR US TO JUDGE.

PLEASE HAND ME THAT SENSOR PROBE.

AND I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE ADMIRAL'S FRIEND. IT'S ICE WATER THAT RUNS IN YOUR VEINS, MR. SPOCK.

PURE ICE WATER!

GERRY CONWAY and DICK KULPA

-- AND I STILL CANNA BELIEVE IT.

ADMIRAL KIRK QUITTIN' THE FLEET, TO BECOME A FREE TRADER--

--AND MR. SPOCK, TAKING THE NEWS LIKE WE WERE TALKING ABOUT A TOTAL STRANGER.

I TELL YOU, HE'S A DEEP ONE...

SHOULD I TAKE THAT AS A COMPLIMENTARY OBSERVATION, MR. SCOTT?

CAPTAIN SPOCK--!

GERRY CONWAY and DICK KULPA

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ON THE FREE TRADER
ORION...

ALL HANDS, THIS IS
CAPTAIN JAMES T.
KIRK. I RUN A TIGHT
SHIP WITH A FAIR
HAND.

I REALIZE THE
RULES ARE
DIFFERENT
ON A TRADER
SHIP THAN A
STAR-FLEET
CRUISER...

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...SO BEAR WITH
ME DURING THESE
NEXT FEW DAYS,
AND I'LL BEAR
WITH YOU.

TIME
TO
LIFT-
OFF,
FIVE
SECONDS
...FOUR...
THREE...
TWO...
ONE...

LIFT-OFF!

THE FREE TRADER
ORION...

PLEAZ TO OFFER
A TOAST, HONORABLE
CAPTAIN KIRK... TO
LONG AND PROFIT-
ABLE RELATIONSHIP.

AS YOU SAY, *MORBUS*... BUT
I'D LIKE TO ADD, TO THE
ENTERPR--I MEAN, TO
THE ORION.

I
THOUGHT
SO...

NO MATTER HOW MUCH
HE TRIES TO HIDE IT,
JIM'S *STILL* WITH
THE *ENTERPRISE*.

KULAH/CONWAY
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ON THE ORION...

PLEASE TO SEE, CAPTAIN KIRK, CONTAINED IN **CARGO HOLD**... MANY INDIVIDUAL **UNITS** FOR TRANS-SHIPMENT TO **EPSILON-21**.

THESE **CARGO UNITS**, MORBUS-

-WHAT EXACTLY DO THEY **CARRY**? WHEN I SIGNED ABOARD, YOU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT **FARM EQUIPMENT**--?

FARM EQUIPMENT, YES. NO CONCERN OF YOURS, HONORABLE CAPTAIN.

NOW, PLEASE TO FOLLOW FOR INSPECTION OF **MAIN ENGINES**.

THAT'S ODD.

I'LL SAY.

CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS, ABOARD THE FREE TRADER **ORION**...

DID YOU NOTICE ANYTHING **STRANGE** ABOUT OUR EMPLOYER'S ATTITUDE TODAY, BONES?

I THINK I SAID SO AT THE **TIME**, JIM.

OUR FRIEND **MORBUS** SEEMED PARTICULARLY **ANXIOUS** TO AVOID EXAMINING OUR **CARGO** TOO CLOSELY.

I THOUGHT SO TOO, MCCOY.

LET'S FIND OUT **WHY**!

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CONWAY/KUWATA

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THE FREE TRADER **ORION'S** CARGO HOLD, DURING THE NIGHT WATCH..

HOPE JIM CAN KEEP
DISTRACTING OUR
HONORABLE **BOSS**...
I NEED ALL THE
TIME I CAN GET
TO SEE WHAT'S
60 MYSTERIOUS
ABOUT THESE
CARGO UNITS.



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CONWAY/KULFA



BY NOW, **MCCOY** SHOULD
BE IN THE CARGO HOLD
-- FINDING OUT EXACTLY
WHAT WE'RE CARRYING
ABOARD
THIS SHIP.



MORBUS
HERE DOESN'T
SEEM SUSPICIOUS, AND THAT'S
FINE WITH--

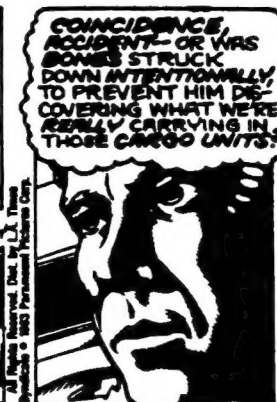
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**CONTROL ROOM, THE FREE
TRADER ORION...**



**HOLD COURSE
FOR EPSILON-
21.**



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**NO DOUBT
ABOUT IT SOME-
THING'S WRONG
...AND I HAVE A
GOOD IDEA
WHAT IT IS.**



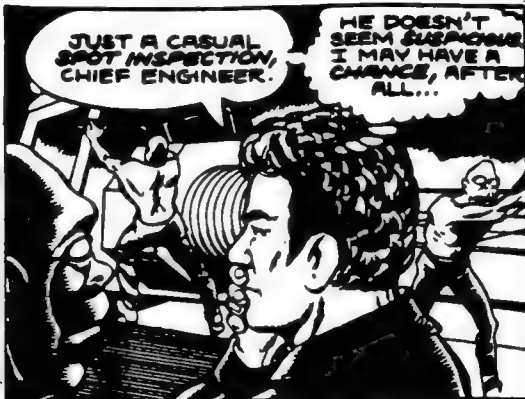
ENGINE ROOM, ABOARD THE FREE TRADER ORION...



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**JUST A CASUAL
SPOT INSPECTION,
CHIEF ENGINEER.**

**HE DOESN'T
SEEM SUSPICIOUS
I MAY HAVE A
CHANCE, AFTER
ALL...**



THERE...
THAT DOES
IT.

THANK YOU,
CHIEF
ENGINEER...
I'VE SEEN
ALL I NEED
TO...

EVERY-
THING'S
SATISFAC-
TORY,
THEN, CAP'N?

PERFECTLY.

HE'S A CANNY ONE,
THAT KIRK IS... BUT
I KNOW HE SUSPECTS
SOMETHING. BETTER
TELL MORBUS, LAD.

IT'S
TIME WE
RID OUR-
SELVES
OF
JAMES
T. KIRK.

EARTH ORBIT...

MESSAGE FROM STARFLEET,
CAPTAIN SPOCK. INTELLIGENCE
HAS RUN A CHECK ON THE
TRADER ORION...

...THE SHIP ADMIRAL
KIRK SIGNED ABOARD
AS CAPTAIN.

SIR, INTELLIGENCE
REPORTS CONTAIN
IRREGULARITIES
IN THE ORION'S
REGISTRATION FILES.

INTRIGUING.

**CONSPIRACY,
ABOARD THE
FREE-TRADER
ORION...**



GERRY
CONWAY
DICK
KULP

AM PLEAZED
TO CONCUR,
CHIEF EN-
GINEER. HONOR-
ABLE CAPTAIN
KIRK BECOMING
SUSPICIOUS...

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...SUGGEST
WE DISPOSE
OF KIRK,
AT ONCE!



**SIMULTANEOUSLY, IN THE
CARGO HOLD...**

I'VE GOT TO FIND
OUT WHAT MY
EMPLOYER IS
HIDING DOWN
HERE!



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NOW, LET'S
SEE WHAT
MY EMPLOY-
ER CALLS
"FARMING
EQUIP-
MENT..."

GERRY
CONWAY
DICK
KULP

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!

SO SORRY YOU LEARNED
OUR **SECRET**, CAPTAIN
KIRK-- ONLY CONFIRMS
NECESSITY OF YOUR
DISPOSAL.

MORBUS!

GERRY
CONWAY
and
DICK
KULPA

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NEVER SHOULD
HAVE **HIRED** YOU, HONORABLE
KIRK--YOU ARE **TOO**
HONORABLE.

TOO
HONORABLE
TO GO ALONG
WITH **THIS**,
MORBUS...

"SMUGGLING **ALIEN SLAVES**
TO EPSILON-21 IN SEALED
CARGO UNITS... AND LABEL-
ING THEM "**FARMING**
EQUIPMENT!"

MORBUS,
YOU'RE
SCUM!

SCUM
WE MAY
BE, CAP-
TAIN KIRK--

BUT A'LEAST WE'LL LIVE
TO REACH **EPSILON-21**,
AND YOU CANNA SAY THE
SAME **YOURSELF**!

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YOU USED MY **REPUTATION** AS
A STARFLEET ADMIRAL TO GET
THE **ORION** CLEARED FOR DE-
PARTURE --

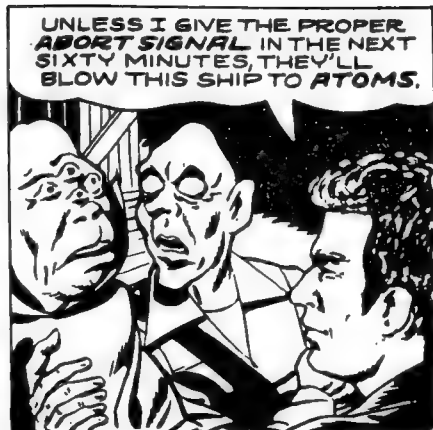
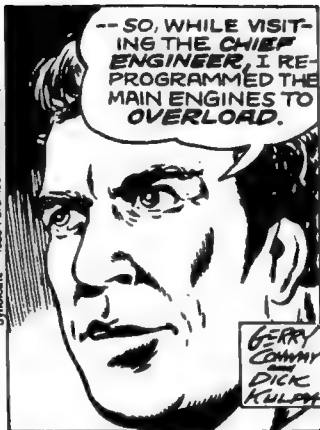
--AND NOW THAT
I'VE LEARNED
YOUR **SECRET**,
YOU PLAN TO
GET RID OF ME.

SORRY, MORBUS--IT WON'T
WORK!

GERRY
CONWAY
and
DICK
KULPA



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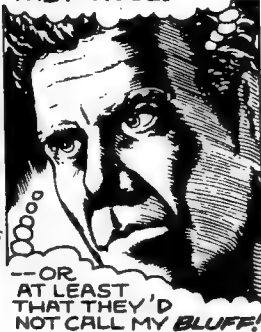
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THEY'RE WRONG--
I HADN'T FORGOTTEN
MCCOY, BUT I HOPED
THEY WOULD--



--OR
AT LEAST
THAT THEY'D
NOT CALL MY BLUFF!



...I COULD NEVER
DESTROY THE
ORION, AND ALL
THE INNOCENTS
ABOARD
IT...

YOU WIN, MOR-
BUS. I'LL SHUT
DOWN THE EN-
GINE OVERLOAD.

EXACTLY!



JIM...
WHERE ARE
WE... SO
DARK...?

WE'RE INSIDE A
CARGO UNIT, BONES,
ABOARD THE FREE-
TRADER
ORION...

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...ALONG WITH THE HUNDREDS OF
OTHER DOOMED SOULS DESTINED
FOR A LIFE OF SLAVERY ON
EPSILON-21.

AND ALL OF IT...
IS MY FAULT.

GERRY
CONWAY
and
DICK
KULDER



**THE FREE-TRADER ORION
EN ROUTE TO EPSILON-21...**

BEST TO KEEP HONORABLE
KIRK AND MCCOY PRISONERS
UNTIL WE HAVE SAFELY
DEPOSITED OUR--
AH--CARGO...

...WE MAY
NEED THEM
AS BARGAINING
CHIPS!

SOON, WE
SHALL
DISPOSE
OF THEM
AS WE
MUST.

MORBUS-- ON THE
SENSOR SCREEN--
ANOTHER
STARSHIP!

GERRY
CONWAY
and
DICK
KULLEN

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SENSORS REVEAL--
FEDERATION
VESSEL!

MORBUS,
IT IS
ENTERPRISE!

THE ENTERPRISE
APPROACHES?
PLEASE TO
CONFIRM!

CONFIRMED,
MORBUS! BUT IS
NOT ENTERPRISE
FORMER VESSEL
OF CAPTAIN
KIRK?

IT IS... AND HONORABLE KIRK IS
PRISONER IN OUR CARGO HOLD!

CAN IT
BE
COINCIDENCE?

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MORBUS...

THEY
ARE
FIRING!

GERRY
CONWAY
and
DICK
KULLEN



**CAPTAIN'S LOG, USS ENTER-
PRIZE, STARDATE 9662.83**
"SPOCK REPORTING, IN COMMAND.
I HAVE FIRED A WARNING SHOT
ACROSS THE BOW OF THE
FREE-TRADER GIBON..."

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...AND HAVE ORDERED
THEM TO HEAVE TO OR
RISK ANNIHILATION.

BUT CAPTAIN SPOCK--
ISN'T ADMIRAL KIRK
THE COMMANDER OF
THAT
VESSEL?

GERRY
CONWAY
and
DICK
KULPER



I AM AWARE THAT ADMIRAL KIRK
SIGNED ABOARD THE GIBON AS ITS
CAPTAIN, COMMANDER SULU.

THAT IN
NO WAY
ALTERS
MY PLANS
OF
OPERATION.

GERRY
CONWAY
and
DICK
KULPER

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COMMUNICATIONS: INFORM THE GIBON
IT RISKS DESTRUCTION
IF IT DOES NOT OBEY
THE HEAVE-TO
COMMAND.

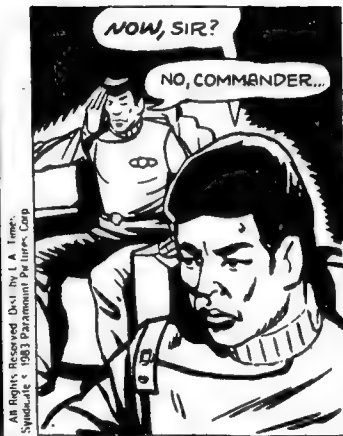
AYE-AYE,
CAPTAIN.



ACH, HE'S A
HEARTLESS
ONE, THAT
VULCAN IS...









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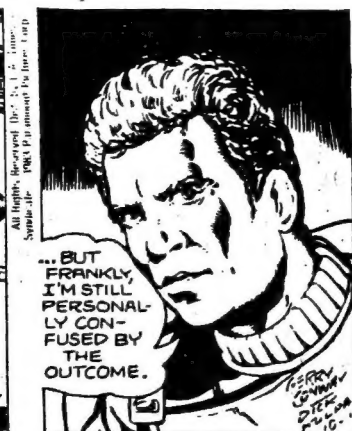
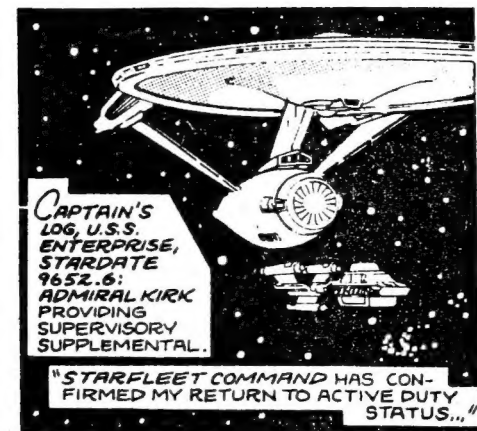


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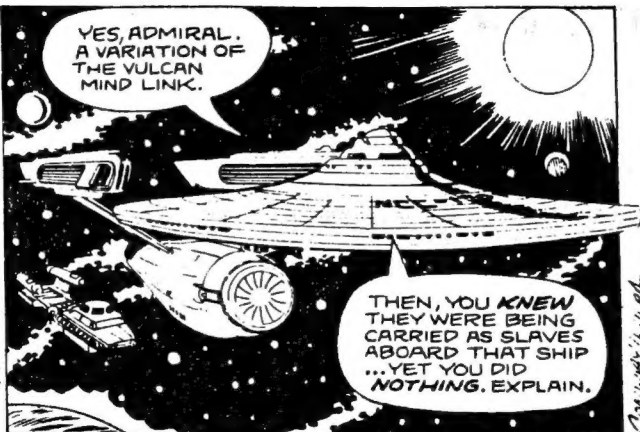
WHAT CONFUSES YOU ABOUT
THE ORION AFFAIR, ADMIRAL?

THE MARONI SAID THEY'D
BEEN IN TELEPATHIC CONTACT
WITH YOU SINCE THE ORION
LEFT
EARTH,
SPOCK--



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YES, ADMIRAL.
A VARIATION OF
THE VULCAN
MIND LINK.



THEN, YOU *KNEW*
THEY WERE BEING
CARRIED AS SLAVES
ABOARD THAT SHIP
...YET YOU DID
NOTHING. EXPLAIN.

REALLY, ADMIRAL,
WHY SHOULD I INTER-
FERE? ACCORDING TO
THE MARONI... YOU HAD
THE SITUATION WELL
IN HAND.



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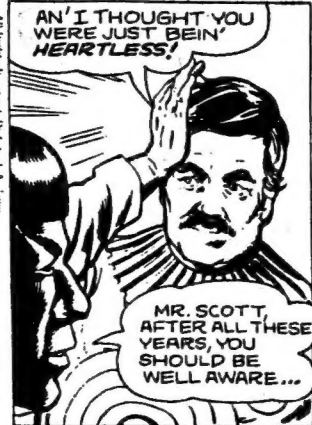
JUST A MOMENT,
CAPTAIN SPOCK,
IF I MAY-- YOU
KNEW WHAT
WAS HAPPENING
TO ADMIRAL
KIRK...

...ALL THE TIME,
BEFORE I
TOLD YOU?

THAT IS
CORRECT,
MR.
SCOTT.

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AN' I THOUGHT YOU
WERE JUST BEIN'
HEARTLESS!



MR. SCOTT,
AFTER ALL THESE
YEARS, YOU
SHOULD BE
WELL AWARE...

VULCHNS ARE HEARTLESS,
ANATOMICALLY SPEAKING.



HA HA HA HA

SO THE MARONI
TAUGHT MORBUS'
MEN A **TELEPATHIC**
LESSON, DID THEY?



THEY DID,
BONES...THEY
SHOWED THE
CREW OF THE
ORION HOW TO
FEEL COMPASSION...

CONWAY/KULPA 10/14

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...AND THE
SLAVE TRADER
WHO KNOWS
COMPASSION...
IS A SLAVE
TRADER
NO LONGER!

IS THAT IT, JIM?
STARFLEET
WILL STILL WANT
YOU TO TAKE A
DESK JOB WHEN
WE RETURN...

OR DID
YOU
FORGET
THAT?

NO, I
DON'T
THINK
YOU **HAVE**
FORGOT-
TEN IT,
OLD
FRIEND.

I THINK YOU
JUST CAN'T
BRING YOUR-
SELF TO
REMEMBER...

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